

Mirror Lake Trailhead Relocation Project | *Fact Sheet*

parking facility and trailhead based on agreed-upon set of project objectives (*see sidebar on page 1*). Many study sites were evaluated and eliminated because they did not meet the objectives. The most promising area to relocate the trailhead and new parking lot is directly west of the Skibowl resort on the south side of Highway 26. When the site and design configuration of the new parking lot is finalized, a new trail connection of .75 to 1.25 miles will connect the lot to the existing trail. The connection will retain the trail’s current level of difficulty. The parking lot, while near to the Skibowl parking lot, will be a separated lot for trail users.

Want to know more?

Visit the project website  
for information and to sign up for  
notifications.  
[www.flh.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/or/mirror-lake](http://www.flh.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/or/mirror-lake)

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The Mirror Lake Trailhead Relocation Project will increase the safety of trail users and the traveling public throughout the Highway 26 Corridor. The project will begin the environmental study of the proposed site this fall.

**Budget:** \$4,180,000

<b>Schedule:</b>	2015	2016	2017
Environmental Study			
Design Phase			
Construction			



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The Mirror Lake Trail is one of the most popular hiking trails on Mt. Hood. This moderately easy hike and its spectacular views of Mt. Hood attract thousands of visitors year-round.



The trailhead to Mirror Lake Trail is located next to the eastbound lanes of U.S. 26—a busy highway linking the Portland Metro area with central Oregon and recreational destinations on Mt. Hood. Mirror Lake Trail users park along the highway to access the trailhead. During the summer months, the limited parking at the trailhead quickly fills. Visitors then park wherever they can, including the opposite side of this busy highway, where they must cross several lanes of traffic to reach the trailhead. Additionally, the trailhead is located at a curve reducing the ability to see oncoming traffic. Parked cars sometimes encroach in lanes of traffic and drivers exiting parking areas often must back into traffic lanes.

These factors create safety hazards for both visitors to the trail, and the through traffic on Highway 26.

A partnership of agencies including Federal Highways (FHWA), the US Forest Service (USFS) and Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) has launched the Mirror Lake Trailhead Relocation Project. The Project Partners have analyzed potential locations for a new *(cont’d on page 4)*



Visitors exiting the parking area often must back into traffic lanes, creating a hazardous situation.

- The Objectives of the Project are:
- » Provide safe access to, and maintain the trail experience of the Mirror Lake Trail
  - » Minimize/eliminate hazardous conditions along U.S. 26 related to accessing the Mirror Lake Trail
  - » Maintain existing parking capacity of visitors to the Mirror Lake Trail
  - » Discourage parking on U.S. 26
  - » Support the land management strategies of USFS
  - » Allow for the Mirror Lake Trail to be available for winter snowshoeing
  - » Minimize impacts to environmental resources
  - » Minimize the additional length of trail to Mirror Lake and maintain the current level of difficulty

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## Phase I Site Analysis

